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M. W. GORMAN.

JAMES C. NELSON.

(With portrait.)

THE death of M. W. Gorman, which occurred in the Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland, on Oct. 7, 1926, removes from the scanty ranks of Oregon botanists the last of our picturesque trio of pioneer field-botanists—Howell, Cusick, and Gorman—men of a type now rapidly becoming extinct, who, without formal scientific preparation or academic position, were animated by an intense love of science, and who devoted their energies to a study of the native flora, often under the most adverse and discouraging conditions. It is idle to speculate on what, with better preparation, they might have accomplished. Howell's *Flora of Northwest America*, considering the circumstances under which it was produced, raises its author almost to the rank of a genius, and forcibly calls to mind the work of that other tireless investigator and pioneer, Joao de Loureiro, in Cochin China; and during the years in which Howell was struggling with difficulties and discouragements of every sort, Mr. Gorman was his constant associate and faithful friend, whose modesty and self-effacement alone prevented him from claiming the title of collaborator.

Martin Woodlock Gorman was born at Douglas in the Province of Ontario, Nov. 10, 1853, the son of Peter and Mary (Woodlock) Gorman. His father, a Canadian of Irish descent, was engaged in the lumber business in his younger days, but retired from active business after inheriting the paternal homestead at Douglas. His mother, a native of Ohio, was also of Irish descent. The young Martin seems to have inherited an interest in trees from his father;

he was fond of telling his friends how he spent many youthful hours transplanting all the species of trees he could find in the forest to a little plantation of his own—a sort of miniature “Arboretum.”

After securing a common-school education, he left home at the age of 16 to clerk in a store, and at 20 went to Montreal, where he spent eleven years in office work. During this time he occasionally attended the lectures of J. W. (afterward Sir William) Dawson, the geologist, at McGill University, and made the acquaintance of John Macoun, then botanist of the Canadian Department of Agriculture. In 1885 he came to Portland, Oregon, where he was at first a clerk in a bank, but after a few years became travelling representative of a salmon-cannery operated by relatives of his in Alaska. This work gave him the longed-for opportunity to study the flora and fauna of the Pacific Coast. In his business capacity he made five trips to southeast Alaska between 1890 and 1895. In 1898 he joined the gold-seekers who were flocking to Dawson, and penetrated into the Yukon Territory to a point on the White River 200 miles above its confluence with the Yukon. Although wholly unprovided with facilities for pressing or drying specimens, “the call,” as he often phrased it, “was strong,” and he collected assiduously during the trip. Many of his specimens were lost in a tragic accident resulting in the drowning of his companion, and his own miraculous rescue by a wholly unexpected boat; but he brought out at least ten new species, and as great an authority as E. L. Greene declared that the results of this trip surpassed in value those of the fully-equipped Harriman Expedition.

At the close of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, held in Portland in 1905, all the buildings were demolished except the Forestry Building, which was taken over by the city as a permanent memorial, being constructed wholly of Oregon timber in its native state, in the form of a gigantic Swiss chalet. Of this building Mr. Gorman was appointed Curator, and held the position until his death—which ensued as the result of pneumonia following a cold caught while raking leaves about the grounds. His little room in the building, filled to overflowing with books, papers and specimens, was the unfailing resort of all botanists who visited Portland. In his summer vacations he made collecting trips to all parts of Oregon and Washington; he has left a record of 17 of these trips, almost every one of which resulted in notable extensions of range or discovery of new

species. He minutely botanized the environs of Portland, making a special study of the disappearance of native species under the encroachment of civilization; and to accompany him on one of these trips was a rare privilege, for he not only saw everything and detected the slightest change of environment, but had the happy faculty of pouring forth a running commentary of reminiscence and illustration, tinged with genial Irish wit, that made his society eagerly sought. He never married, but his kindly and unselfish disposition prevented him from developing into the classic old-bachelor type. His interest in humanity was unfailing, and his charity and tolerance seemed never to be exhausted. Much-abused as the word "gentleman" has been, it could with little exaggeration be literally applied to him; he represented the finest ideals of his race. He was wholly free from vanity or self-seeking, painfully modest as to his own attainments, always ready to subordinate his own judgment, and never indulging in harsh or carping criticism even of those whose views were most widely divergent from his. To the end of his life his botanical interest was chiefly directed toward the trees and shrubs; but he collected everything, and devoted a large part of his time to making determinations for his many correspondents. His long association with Thomas Howell made him an admirable commentator on the Flora of Northwest America; he had accompanied Howell on many of his expeditions, and was able to give detailed information as to time and place of collection of many of his species. His own large collection he never wholly reduced to order, but by the terms of his will it becomes, along with his books and papers, the property of the University of Oregon.

The genus *Gormaniana* (*Crassulaceae*) was named in his honor by Dr. Britton,¹ but it is unfortunately too close to *Echeveria* to be maintained by many Eastern botanists. Of the species which he discovered, and in some of which his name has been commemorated, the following may be mentioned:

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| 1. <i>Cardamine neglecta</i> Greene | 7. <i>Betula alaskana</i> Sarg. |
| 2. <i>Lomatium Gormanii</i> (Howell)
C. & R. | 8. <i>Androsace Gormanii</i> Greene |
| 3. <i>Sisyrinchium littorale</i> Greene | 9. <i>Pentstemon Gormanii</i> Greene |
| 4. <i>Aquilegia columbiana</i> Rydb. | 10. <i>Ranunculus vicinalis</i> Greene |
| 5. <i>Ranunculus Gormanii</i> Greene | 11. <i>Arnica attenuata</i> Greene |
| 6. <i>Polypodium hesperium</i> Maxon | 12. <i>Bistorta ophioglossa</i> Greene |
| | 13. <i>Erigeron purpuratus</i> Greene |

¹ Bull. N. Y. Bot. Gard. 3: 29. 1903.

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| 14. <i>Erigeron Gormanii</i> Greene | 17. <i>Eucephalus Gormanii</i> Piper |
| 15. <i>Astragalus Gormanii</i> Wight | 18. <i>Claytonia chrysantha</i> Greene |
| 16. <i>Panicum pacificum</i> Hitchc.
& Chase | 19. <i>Saxifraga Gormanii</i> Suksd. |

Although Mr. Gorman possessed to a high degree the ability to write clearly and picturesquely, he published little. The following list seems to represent the total of his published work:

1. Economic Botany of Southeastern Alaska. *Pittonia* **3**: 64-85. 1896.
2. Report on the name Mazama. *Mazama* **1**: 5. 1896.
3. Discovery and Early History of Crater Lake. *Mazama* **1**: 150. 1897.
4. Eastern Part of the Washington Forest Reserve. 19th Ann. Rep. U. S. Geol. Surv. Pt. **5**: 315-350. 1898.
5. Complexities of the Diamond Hitch. *Mazama* **2**: 242. 1905.
6. Vegetation of the Northwest Slope of Mt. Baker. *Mazama* **3**: 31. 1907.
7. Useful Books on Botany for the Mountain Climber. *Mazama* **4**: 51. 1915.
8. Two Useful Botanical Manuals. *Mazama* **5**: 87. 1916.
9. Flora of Mt. Hamilton, Washington. *Mazama* **6**: 67-77. 1920.

"Mazama," it might be explained, is a periodical appearing at irregular intervals in Portland as the organ of "The Mazamas," the local Alpine club, which each year officially ascends some chosen peak in the mountains of the Northwest. Mr. Gorman was an active and enthusiastic member.

The botanists of Oregon are so lamentably few in number, and the flora of the State is still so imperfectly known, that the loss of even a single worker seems far more irreparable than in the more fortunate East; while to those who were privileged to be friends as well as fellow-laborers, no tribute will seem adequate.

"Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit:

Nulli flebilior quam mihi."

SALEM, OREGON.